

Attached as Appendix A is a Clean Copy Of The Pending Claims. Attached as Appendix B is a Marked-Up Copy Of The Pending Claims That Shows The Changes That Have Been Made.

Remarks -- Cancellation And Amendment Of Claims

In the Examiner's Office Action mailed October 23, 2000, the Examiner allowed claims 20-26, 38 and 39, and indicated that claim 41/39 was allowable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully submits that, with the amendments presented in his April 20, 2001 Reply To Examiner's Action and herein, applicant's currently presented claims should be allowed.

Previously-allowed claims 20-26 have been cancelled in this application without prejudice because they have been submitted for continued prosecution in Application No. 09/950,517 (see applicant's Second Preliminary Amendment, mailed January 15, 2002, claims 22-28).

Claims 27-31 have been cancelled without prejudice to place this application in condition for allowance.

Claim 32 and previously-allowed claim 38 have been amended to make plain that erosion of the skin engaging layer provides a color change that signals that the razor cartridge should be replaced. Claim 33 has been amended to

conform to the amended language of claim 32. Claim 40 has been amended to include the features of the skin engaging member of claim 32. Claim 41 has been amended to be dependent from claim 38, 39 or 40. Applicant believes that the present claims are patentable and are consistent with the subject matter found patentable to applicant by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in its Memorandum Opinion And Judgment (Paper No. 85, Interference No. 104,482) involving applicant's parent Application No. 08/461,318.

Wexler U.S. Patent 6,295,733

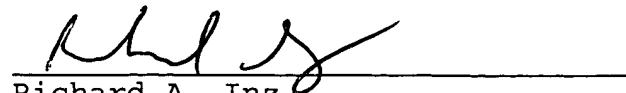
Applicant previously requested an interference between this application and Wexler et al. U.S. Application No. 08/285,364, now U.S. Patent 6,295,733 ("Wexler '733"), papers having been submitted by applicant in both this application and Wexler '733.

Based on arguments and amendments made during prosecution of Wexler '733, applicant believes that the claims of Wexler '733 should be construed such that an interference between this application and Wexler '733 should not be declared.

Conclusion

An early and favorable action, allowing claims 32-41, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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APPENDIX B

MARKED-UP COPY OF THE PENDING CLAIMS THAT SHOWS THE CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE

32. (Thrice Amended) A skin engaging member in the form of a narrow elongated strip of dimensions suitable for placement on a razor cartridge, said skin engaging member comprising two disparately colored, solid polymeric layers, said layers comprising an erodible skin engaging layer of a first color and a non-skin engaging layer of a different color, said skin engaging layer comprising a blend of [polyethylene oxide] an amount of a water soluble shaving aid and a water insoluble polymer, said [polyethylene oxide] shaving aid being water-leachable from said skin-engaging layer, and said non-skin engaging layer comprising a water insoluble polymer, wherein said skin engaging layer erodes during shaving to [visually expose said non-skin engaging layer] provide a color change that signals that the razor cartridge should be replaced.

33. (Amended) The skin engaging member of claim 32 wherein said [skin engaging layer] water soluble shaving aid comprises [65% to 82% by weight] polyethylene oxide.

34. The skin engaging member of claim 33 wherein said water insoluble polymer in said skin engaging layer comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of

nylon, ethylene vinyl acetate, polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene and polyacetal.

35. The skin engaging member of claim 34 wherein said water insoluble polymer in said non-skin engaging layer comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, high impact polystyrene, polypropylene, filled polypropylene and nylon.

36. The skin engaging member of claim 35 wherein said non-skin engaging layer additionally comprises a water soluble polymer.

37. The skin engaging member of claim 32 wherein said skin engaging layer comprises an elongated sheath and said non-skin engaging layer comprises a core extending axially throughout said sheath.

38. (Twice Amended) A skin engaging member for use in a razor cartridge, said skin engaging member comprising a water insoluble polymer, an amount of a water soluble shaving aid and means in said skin engaging member for [gradually] indicating a change in said amount of said shaving aid, said means for indicating comprising at least one coloring agent, said means for indicating comprising a coating on top of a portion of said skin engaging member, wherein said coating is adapted to gradually wear off said skin engaging member during use of said skin engaging member

in shaving and thereby provide a signal that the razor cartridge should be replaced.

39. A razor cartridge comprising a blade and a skin engaging member according to claim 38 affixed adjacent said blade.

40. (Twice Amended) A razor cartridge comprising a blade and a skin engaging member affixed adjacent said blade, said skin engaging member in the form of a narrow elongated strip of dimensions suitable for placement on a razor cartridge, said skin engaging member comprising two disparately colored, solid polymeric layers, said layers comprising an erodible skin engaging layer of a first color and a non-skin engaging layer of a different color, said skin engaging layer comprising a blend of an amount of water soluble shaving aid and a water insoluble polymer, said shaving aid being water-leachable from said skin-engaging layer, and said non-skin engaging layer comprising a water insoluble polymer, wherein said skin engaging layer erodes during shaving to provide a color change that signals that the razor cartridge should be replaced [comprising a water insoluble polymer, an amount of a water soluble shaving aid and means in said skin engaging member for gradually indicating a change in said amount of said shaving aid].

41. (Amended) The razor cartridge of claim [31]
38, 39 or 40 wherein said water soluble shaving aid
comprises polyethylene oxide.